

**CONFIDENTIALITY OF CERTAIN INFORMATION STORED AS
PART OF THE PREPARATION OF REPORTS AND PERSONAL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS REQUIRED TO BE FILED WITH
THE TEXAS ETHICS COMMISSION**

CHAPTER 584

H.B. No. 3680

AN ACT

relating to the confidentiality of certain information stored as part of the preparation of reports and personal financial statements required to be filed with the Texas Ethics Commission.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 571.0671, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) Electronic report or financial statement data saved in a commission temporary storage location for later retrieval and editing before the report or financial statement is filed is confidential and may not be disclosed. After the report or financial statement is filed with the commission, the information disclosed in the filed report or financial statement is public information to the extent provided by the law requiring the filing of the report or financial statement.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 30, 2015: Yeas 139, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 3680 on May 21, 2015: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 20, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 16, 2015.

Effective September 1, 2015.

**INCLUSION OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF VETERANS COURT
PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS IN THE TREATMENT AND
SERVICES PROVIDED TO THE PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE
PROGRAM**

CHAPTER 585

H.B. No. 3729

AN ACT

relating to inclusion of family members of veterans court program participants in the treatment and services provided to the participants under the program.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 124.001(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) In this chapter, "veterans court program" means a program that has the following essential characteristics:

- (1) the integration of services in the processing of cases in the judicial system;
- (2) the use of a nonadversarial approach involving prosecutors and defense attorneys to promote public safety and to protect the due process rights of program participants;
- (3) early identification and prompt placement of eligible participants in the program;
- (4) access to a continuum of alcohol, controlled substance, mental health, and other related treatment and rehabilitative services;

- (5) careful monitoring of treatment and services provided to program participants;
- (6) a coordinated strategy to govern program responses to participants' compliance;
- (7) ongoing judicial interaction with program participants;
- (8) monitoring and evaluation of program goals and effectiveness;
- (9) continuing interdisciplinary education to promote effective program planning, implementation, and operations; ~~and~~
- (10) development of partnerships with public agencies and community organizations, including the United States Department of Veterans Affairs; *and*
- (11) *inclusion of a participant's family members who agree to be involved in the treatment and services provided to the participant under the program.*

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

Passed by the House on April 30, 2015: Yeas 137, Nays 2, 1 present, not voting;
passed by the Senate on May 22, 2015: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 16, 2015.

Effective June 16, 2015.

**AUTHORITY OF THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING
AND REGULATION TO DETERMINE APPLICANT
ELIGIBILITY FOR A LICENSE**

CHAPTER 586

H.B. No. 3742

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation to determine applicant eligibility for a license.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter H, Chapter 51, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 51.4041 to read as follows:

Sec. 51.4041. ALTERNATIVE QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE. (a) The commission, department, or executive director may adopt alternative means of determining or verifying a person's eligibility for a license issued by the department, including evaluating the person's education, training, experience, and military service.

(b) Notwithstanding any other law, the commission or the executive director may waive any prerequisite for obtaining a license if the applicant currently holds a similar license issued by another jurisdiction that:

(1) has requirements for the license that are substantially equivalent to those of this state; or

(2) has a reciprocity agreement with this state for the license.

(c) The department, with approval of the governor, may enter into an agreement with another state to allow for licensing by reciprocity.

SECTION 2. Section 469.004, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 469.004. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAW. Section 51.4041 ~~[51.404]~~, Occupations Code, does not apply to this chapter.

SECTION 3. Section 754.025, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows: